

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) A seat hinge assembly, comprising:
a support including a first slot;
an arm pivotally mounted to said support;
a sliding pin operable to prevent movement of said arm relative to said support in a locking position; and
a drive shaft operable to rotate from a first position and slide along said first slot to move said sliding pin from said locking position without moving said arm relative said support, and operable in said second position to move said arm relative said support.

37. (Previously Presented) The seat hinge assembly according to claim 36, further comprising at least one lever arm pivotally attached to said support at a pivot point and wherein said lever arm rotatably supports said drive shaft at a first end and a link arm at a second end, said link arm further connecting to said sliding pin.

38. (Previously Presented) The seat hinge assembly according to claim 36, further comprising a second slot formed in said arm and a stop pin attached to said

support, said slot slidably interfacing said stop pin for defining a rotational range of motion of said arm relative to said support.

39. (Previously Presented) The seat hinge assembly according to claim 36, further comprising a gear on said drive shaft and gear teeth on said arm, wherein said drive shaft is operable to move from said first position to said second position in response to said gear interacting with said gear teeth.

40. (Previously Presented) The seat hinge assembly according to claim 39, wherein said arm is operable to rotate relative to said support when said drive shaft is in said second position.

41. (Previously Presented) The seat hinge assembly according to claim 36, further comprising a motor operable to rotate said drive shaft.

42. (Previously Presented) The seat hinge assembly according to claim 41, wherein said motor is operable in a forward mode, a reverse mode and a stop mode.

43. (Previously Presented) The seat hinge assembly according to claim 36, further comprising a dial operable to manually rotate said drive shaft.

44. (Previously Presented) A hinge assembly for use with a seat and seat back, said hinge assembly, comprising:

a support including an elongated slot therein;

an arm supported by said support and adapted to support the seat back;

a sliding pin movable between a first position and a second position relative said support, said sliding pin preventing rotation of said arm relative to said support in said first position and allowing said arm to rotate relative to said support in said second position; and

a shaft disposed within said elongated slot of said support and operable to interface said arm as said shaft slides in said elongated slot to move said sliding pin from said first position to said second position before driving said arm to move relative said support.

45. (Previously Presented) The hinge assembly according to claim 44, further comprising a motor operable to rotate said shaft.

46. (Previously Presented) The hinge assembly according to claim 45, wherein said motor is operable in a forward mode, a reverse mode and a stop mode.

47. (Previously Presented) The hinge assembly according to claim 44, wherein said arm includes a plurality of gear teeth, said shaft includes a gear, and said sliding pin is moved to said second position by said gear interacting with said gear teeth.

48. (Previously Presented) The hinge assembly according to claim 44, further comprising at least one lever arm pivotally attached to said support at a pivot point and

wherein said lever arm rotatably supports said shaft at a first end and a link arm at a second end, said link arm further connecting to said sliding pin.

49. (Previously Presented) The hinge assembly according to claim 44, further comprising an arcuate slot formed in said arm and a stop pin attached to said support, said arcuate slot slidably interfacing said stop pin to define a range of motion of said arm relative to said support.

50. (Previously Presented) The hinge assembly according to claim 44, wherein said shaft is slidably supported in said elongated slot by said support to define a locking position and an actuation position, said shaft sliding in said elongated slot in response to a gear on said drive shaft interacting with gear teeth on said arm to move said sliding pin to said second position.

51. (Previously Presented) The hinge assembly according to claim 50, wherein said arm is able to rotate relative to said support when said shaft is in said actuation position.

52. (Previously Presented) A seat assembly, comprising:

a seat;

a seat back connected to said seat;

a hinge assembly, including:

a support including a first slot;

an arm pivotally mounted to said support;

a sliding pin operable to prevent movement of said arm relative to said support in a locking position; and

a drive shaft operable to rotate from a first position and slide along said first slot to move said sliding pin from said locking position without moving said arm relative said support, and operable in said second position to move said arm relative said support.

53. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly according to claim 52, further comprising at least one lever arm pivotally attached to said support at a pivot point and wherein said lever arm rotatably supports said drive shaft at a first end and a link arm at a second end, said link arm further connecting to said sliding pin.

54. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly according to claim 52, further comprising a second slot formed in said arm and a stop pin attached to said support, said slot slidably interfacing said stop pin for defining a rotational range of motion of said arm relative to said support.

55. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly according to claim 52, further comprising a gear on said drive shaft and gear teeth on said arm, wherein said drive shaft is operable to move said first position to said second position in response to said gear interacting with said gear teeth.

56. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly according to claim 55, wherein said arm is operable to rotate relative to said support when said drive shaft is in said second position.